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Tilletia horrida Tak. on Rice Plant in South Carolina

BY ALEXANDER P. ANDERSON

At the time of the discovery of the smut on *Oryza sativa* L., in South Carolina, in 1898, the somewhat close similarity between it and the then already described *Tilletia corona* Scribn. (now *T. rotundata* (Arth.) Ell. & Ev.), led the writer to suppose that the rice smut in South Carolina was identical with *T. rotundata* (Arth.) Ell. & Ev., which had been found on *Panicum* and other grasses in the United States.

Shortly before, in 1896, Takashi described a new smut on the rice plant in Japan.* In my paper † the original description of *T. horrida* Tak. was copied, and the suggestion made that the South Carolina rice smut and the one in Japan might be the same. No specimens of *T. horrida* had at that time been seen by the writer, but since then it has been found in seed rice imported from Japan. The spores and affected ovaries of the Japanese rice smut, and the South Carolina one, are identically the same in all their characters, so that there can be no doubt but that the rice smut found at Georgetown, South Carolina, was introduced through seed rice imported from Japan.

Upon inquiry I found that Japanese seed rice had been sent to Georgetown, South Carolina, by the Clyde Steamship Company in 1896 and experimented upon by two planters near Georgetown, ‡ which explains the appearance of *T. horrida* Tak. at this place.

That the rice smut at Georgetown, South Carolina, was *Tilletia horrida* Tak., has already been called attention to by Professor F. S. Earle.§ This had probably been overlooked by Professor L. H. Pammel in his recent bulletin on the Grasses of Iowa, || where he makes mention of *Tilletia rotundata* (Arth.) Ell. & Ev., as occurring on the rice plant in South Carolina.

*Tokio Bot. Mag. 10: 20. 1896.

† Bot. Gazette, 27: 472. 1899.

‡ Bull. S. C. Agric. Exp. Sta. 41: 13.

§ Bot. Gazette, 28: 138. 1899.

|| Iowa Geol. Survey Bull. 1: 253. 1901.

Massee makes no mention of *T. horrida* Tak., on the rice plant. He had evidently overlooked it at the time of the publication of his monograph on *Tilletia*.*

On account of the mistake made by me in my first paper, on the South Carolina rice smut, published soon after its discovery, there appears to be some confusion as to its name, which I hope the above note will correct.

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* Bulletin Kew Gardens, London.